

## Alight here for... Chatham?



On the site of Doust Way once stood South-Eastern Railway's rather mis-named CHATHAM CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION. Built on a wooden viaduct and opened in 1892, it was closed in 1911 and demolished in 1933.



## Warships and more ships...

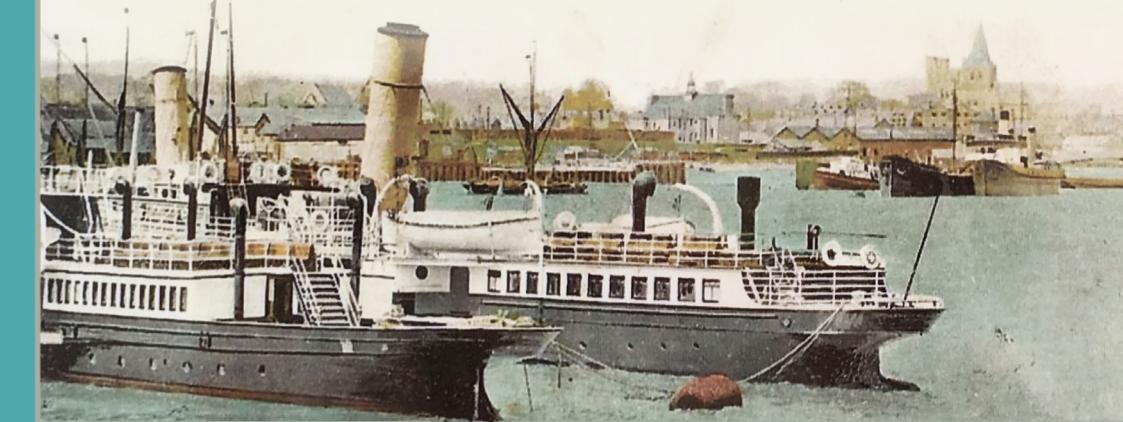
This site was home to DOUST & CO MARINE ENGINEERS. Before Doust, W.G. Gill built barges here from 1853 to 1910. Martin & Henniker built warships here in the 18th century.

## Leper's landing

LEPERS were brought to the original St Bartholomew's by boat and landed at a jetty here, then led up SHIP LANE to the hospital. The cottages belonged to the adjacent brewery and were demolished in the late 1920s.

## The Steam Queens

Above 365 High Street was the office of the NEW MEDWAY STEAM PACKET COMPANY. Paddle Steamers including the MEDWAY QUEEN would be moored behind the building.



**CHATHAM INTRA**

"Into Rochester or Chatham... Because if anybody knows to a nicety where Rochester ends and Chatham begins is more than I do!" CHARLES DICKENS, *The Seven Poor Travellers*

The word 'intra' comes from the Latin for within. This is the area roughly bounded to the west by the railway bridge over Rochester High Street, just after the Nags Head public house, and to the east by the Chatham boundary sign outside the John Hawkins Hospital. Strictly speaking, Chatham Intra is just the area on the north side of the High Street but here we will include both sides of the road. Traditionally, people living in this area (usually river workers) paid rates to either Rochester or Chatham. Today, Chatham Intra is in Rochester.

**MAP KEY** FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE REVERSE.

1. HANGMAN'S LANE
2. CHATHAM CENTRAL STATION
3. DOUST & CO.
4. THE BETHEL CHAPEL
5. THE NORTH FORELAND PUB.
6. THE PARLOUR
7. INTRA ARTS
8. CHATHAM MEMORIAL SYNAGOGUE
9. SHIP LANE
10. JOSEPH ABBOTT
11. THE SHIP PUB.
12. CHATHAM HOUSE
13. HULKES WATER TOWER
14. JESSE JOHNSON'S SADDLERY
15. COCK INN
16. VICTORIA BUILDINGS
17. COMMODORE WHARF/LETLEY'S BOATYARD
18. NEW MEDWAY STEAM PACKET Co.
19. PEEK-A-BOO
20. FEATHERSTONE HOUSE
21. THE BEAR & STAFF
22. ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHAPEL
23. SIR JOHN HAWKINS ALMSHOUSES

**Wherever I lay my noose...**

This road was called William Street but was known locally as HANGMAN'S LANE, the road where the hangman for Rochester had his cottage. The last hanging in Rochester took place in 1820.

**Nelson's local**

NELSON drank here when he trained at Chatham Dockyard. It was rebuilt in 1912 by the Woodhams Brewery - look for their crest above the door.

**Brunel's saviour**

There has been a SYNAGOGUE on this site since 1750. The current building dates from 1869 and was built as a memorial to CAPTAIN LAZARUS SIMON MAGNUS, a highly respected man who was a business partner of ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL.

**Wesleyan worship**

Bethel Chapel - built in 1810 by the Wesleyans, the BETHEL CHAPEL cost £40,000 to build. The last service there was in 1951 and it was then used by a printer until its demolition in the 90s.

**A castle fit for a spring**

The FORMAL GARDEN OF CHATHAM HOUSE was on the opposite side of the High Street. James Hulkes built the WATER TOWER here in 1810 over the top of a NATURAL SPRING. Resembling a small white castle, the building became the St Barts mortuary in later years.

**A safe haven**

Built as a dwelling house in 1511, the current façade dates from 1832. The SHIP lays claim to being one of the oldest LGBTQ+ pubs in the UK.

**Brewer's rest**

This was a MANSION HOUSE for the brewery behind. Best known as the home of JAMES HULKES and latterly Charles Arkoll who renamed it the LION BREWERY. The brewery closed in 1912 and the building became the Featherstones' Carpet and Furniture shop.

**Something for everyone...**

FEATHERSTONE HOUSE, aka Boundary House, was the first shop opened by the company in Rochester in 1901. Constructed over the top of an Elizabethan manor house thought to have belonged to Sir John Hawkins.

**The name's Bond...**

VICTORIA BUILDINGS were built by ARCHITECT GEORGE BOND in 1889 and used as his offices. Bond was the architect of the Theatre Royal, Chatham Town Hall (Brook Theatre), the Medway Conservancy building in Rochester, the Aveling & Porter building in Strood and many more.

**Gundolph's refuge**

The original ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL dates to 1079 and was built by Bishop Gundolph on the High Street to the east of St Bart's Chapel. The only remaining Norman part of the hospital is the nave of the chapel.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

1. WILLIAM STREET aka Hangman's Lane.

2. CHATHAM CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION.

3. DOUST & CO MARINE ENGINEERS. Doust was a ship repairer rather than a ship builder and they operated from 1933 until 1990. Before Doust, the area was known as the Medway Slipway Yard and before that, as W.G. Gill's Slipway. Medway Slipway Yard was home to the JP Knight tug company. Gill's were ship and barge builders of renown, and they built The Lady of Lorne Paddle Steamer for the Medway Steam Packet Company in 1871. Gill's operated in Rochester from 1853 until they closed in 1910. William George Gill had a grand residence in front of his slipway. Gill's built almost 120 vessels from 1870-1901. Before Gill's, we find the private yard of Martin & Henniker. They built a number of warships for the government here including HMS Panther, a 60-gun ship of the line that was launched in 1758.

4. THE BETHEL CHAPEL.

5. THE NORTH FORELAND PUB

6. THE PARLOUR. The Thai Supermarket stands on the junction of the Banks, and Bingley Road. In the 1960s this was known as The Parlour and was a hang-out for local mods.

7. INTRA ARTS. This building was constructed in the 1910s for Featherstone's, the local department store, as their men's and boy's wear shop. Prior to Featherstone's building on this site, the Tartar Frigate pub stood here.



8. CHATHAM MEMORIAL SYNAGOGUE. A synagogue is listed on the site of the current one in 1750, known as the 'Cottage Jews' Tabernacle Synagogue'. This is the only synagogue in the UK with an adjacent cemetery. The synagogue has a significant Holocaust Memorial window, replacing a lantern light in the synagogue, which had been shattered by a German bomb in WWII. This was designed by Nucleus Arts founder Hilary Halpern.

9. SHIP LANE.

10. JOSEPH ABBOTT. At 345 in the 1920s was a shop owned by Joseph Abbott – hatter – who advertised his felt hats, "Of all the felt hats I ever felt, I never felt any felt like that felt hat I felt at Joseph Abbott's".

11. THE SHIP. The centre of the LGBTQIA+ communities of not just the Medway Towns but much of Kent. Don Rose was the landlord of the Ship from 1970 until 1985 and he gave a room to the Medway Gay Switchboard for them to operate from. He also gave keys to the pub to many of the locals so that if they found themselves in trouble or being chased, they could find refuge. Over the years, the Ship has welcomed the likes of Barbara Windsor, Jo Brand, Tom Robinson and Doris Troy among others.



requirements the whole site was occupied by Featherstones who turned it into their carpet and furniture shop. Featherstones still own the building and it is subject to a major restoration project.

13. HULKES GARDENS AND WATER TOWER. In 1810, Hulkles built a water tower over the top of a natural spring. The water from here was used to drive a water wheel on the side of Chatham House that turned the spit in the kitchen. The building looks like a small white castle and became part of the estate of St Barts Hospital after the brewery closed in 1912. It was used by the hospital as a mortuary and offices.



1920s, Wharton and Sillifant opened a piano and music warehouse here with the MEDWAY SCHOOL OF MUSIC based above.

12. CHATHAM HOUSE AND THE HULKES LANE BREWERY. Renamed the Lion Brewery by Charles Arkcoll in 1880. Arkcoll inherited £18,000 from his father in 1869 (£23M today). Arkcoll commissioned the steam yacht Stephanotis in 1901 and he would moor it at the Brewery Wharf. After Arkcoll's death in 1912, the site was sold to Owen J Carter and subsequently to Style & Winch. Surplus to their

14. JESSE JOHNSON'S SADDLERY. Opened in 1906, Johnson's supplied officers from the Royal Engineers and nearby barracks. Jesse died in 1921 and Mrs Johnson carried on the business until 1953.

15. COCK INN. On the site of the Dead Pigeon bar originally stood a pub called the Cock Inn. This burned down in 1850 and was replaced by the Albion public house. In the

16. VICTORIA BUILDINGS, architect George Bond's office.



17. COMMODORE WHARF/LETLEY'S BOATYARD. Of all the characters that are remembered for working and living in Chatham Intra, one of the best loved was JOHN OLIVER. John, also known as Ollie or Joliver, was born with no hands and only one foot. Despite these challenges, he became an artist, a chef, a horticulturalist, a sailor and tug captain of 'Hobbit' on the River Medway. Joliver was born in 1926 and lived on his houseboat here in Intra at Letley's Boatyard for many years until his death aged 88 in 2014.

18. NEW MEDWAY STEAM PACKET COMPANY. NMSPC dates to the formation of the Medway Steam Packet Company in 1837, which was formed to link Chatham with Sheerness before the arrival of the railways. Few details survive of the early steamers of this company, but around 1871 they acquired the first City of Rochester, which extended the Medway route to Southend. The New Medway Steam Packet Company formed in 1919 to take over the assets of the 1871 company. The fine new steamer Medway Queen joined the fleet in 1924. Her final season was in 1963.

19. PEEK-A-BOO. The Rochester Pizza Parlour building formed part of the main Featherstones' Department Store. Featherstones tried to bring a bit of the swinging 60s to Rochester in 1967, opening a new boutique called PEAK-A-BOO that sold a range of clothes branded as Lulu. Lulu was guest of honour when the shop was opened.



20. FEATHERSTONE HOUSE aka Boundary House. Featherstones built a modern shop on what was once the courtyard of the Elizabethan mansion here, and you can still see external facing windows inside the building. This part of the Featherstones empire included their women's wear and homeware departments. This was the last part of the Featherstones chain to close in 1983.

21. THE BEAR & STAFF. Now the tattoo parlour on the corner of Gundulph Road. The High Street was so narrow here in the 1700 and 1800's that it was known as the Khyber Pass. The pub was demolished when the road was widened in the 1870s.

22. ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHAPEL.

23. SIR JOHN HAWKINS ALMSHOUSES. Rebuilt in 1789 and converted into flats in 1983

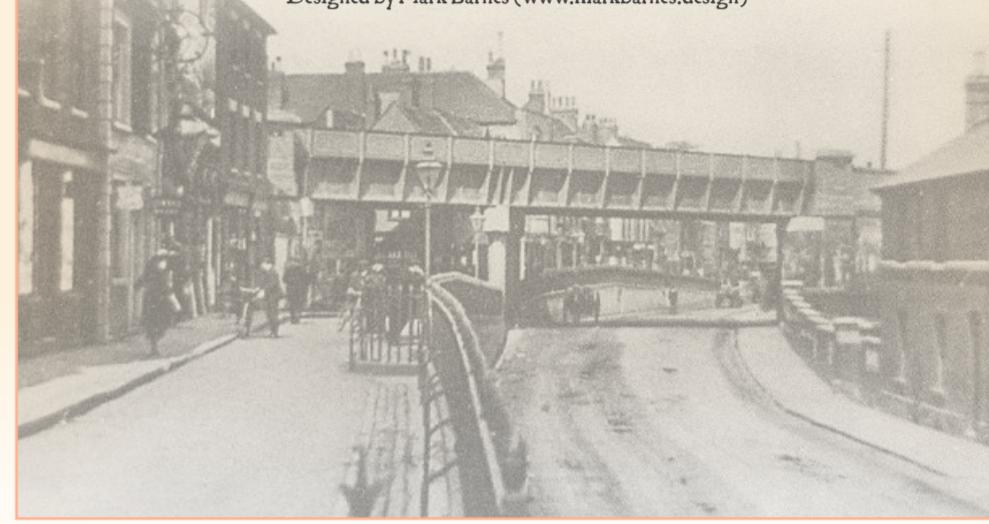
# WELCOME TO CHATHAM INTRA

CHATHAM INTRA - historic haunt of sea captains and shipbuilders, architects, brewers and publicans, river workers and shopkeepers. Lying on the border of Chatham and Rochester, this fascinating stretch of High Street is explored inside with a full-colour, illustrated map.

## A TOUR GUIDE IN YOUR POCKET

Featuring archive photographs and images this leaflet is packed with revealing facts about the past and present of this lively and living area fronting the River Medway.

Written by Rob Flood  
Designed by Mark Barnes ([www.markbarnes.design](http://www.markbarnes.design))



HM Government

European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

Medway  
Serving You

## THE BUSINESSES OF CHATHAM INTRA

Chatham Intra has been home to many types of business over the years. Light industrial and river-based businesses occupied the lanes running down to the river. The main High Street was a mix of pubs, dining rooms and cafés, businesses supplying clothes, uniforms, boots and saddles to the local military, drapers, coal merchants, greengrocers, tobacconists and confectioners, butchers and fishmongers, stationers, opticians and dentists – all mixed in with local residents.

*This is a snapshot in time of the businesses in Chatham Intra in early 2022.*

### North side from Bath Yard:

#### At Doust Way

Breaking Bread, café

313..... Rhubarbers, barber

327..... Limehouse Thai, restaurant

#### At Boundary Wharf

ME1 Sauna and Steamroom

329..... GC Flooring Centre

331..... Hilary's Electrolysis and the Medway Gender & Sexual Diversity Centre

333..... Charles D Smith & Associates, engineering consultant

335..... The Colour Lounge, hair and beauty services

337-341.... Intra Arts, community arts venue and maker space

#### At Cooks Wharf

Yard Autos Vehicle Repair and Maintenance

M.R.T Vehicle Technicians, garage services

Harman Utilities domestic & commercial plumber

343..... Siam Beauty and Spa

347-349.... The Ship Inn, public house

351..... Chatham House, heritage building

### At Hulkes Lane

LION BREWERY GROUND FLOOR,  
Rochester Studios

LION BREWERY 1ST FLOOR  
Hulkes Lane Darkroom and Studio

LION BREWERY 2ND FLOOR,  
Rochester Tile Company

LION BREWERY 3RD FLOOR,  
Loft Studio & Nicky Thomas Photography

BONDED WAREHOUSE GROUND FLOOR,  
MMI Fitness Personal Trainer  
Bennett Gynn Modelmaking Ltd, architectural model makers

BONDED WAREHOUSE FIRST FLOOR,  
Dockside Studio, commercial photo studio  
Kalinkas Armour, bespoke fashion atelier

THE TACK ROOM,  
Mark Barnes Design, graphic design and illustration

351a..... Hulkes Lane, Medway Motorcycles, used motorcycle/  
scooter retail and servicing

353-357.... Cycle King, cycle retail, servicing and accessories

### At Commodore Wharf

Letley's Boat Yard

361..... Free Spirit Hair Salon

### At Central Wharf

Decktronix, second-hand record shop, repair shop & streaming studio

308Sniper, Airsoft shop, café and 'Kill House close quarter battle' gaming area

MIT Publishing

A2 Baits, fishing bait dealer

365..... Rochester Pizza Lounge, restaurant and take-away

367..... OIYK Barbers

### 375 ..... FEATHERSTONE HOUSE

Mitec Solutions Group Ltd, IT and computing  
Crittenden Accountants  
Train2Protect, safety training and consultancy  
Evolution Estates, residential and commercial estate agent  
Featherstones Estate Management  
React Recruitment Ltd

### South side from Five Bells Lane:

318..... The Dead Pigeon, take-away kitchen and collection point

322-324.... For You UK, charity for social inclusion

336-338.... ROCKChurch Kent, evangelical church and Little Lights Nursery

340..... Pizza Hut, take-away

344..... L.E.S Small Cars, used car dealer

346..... Thai Market, Thai and Asian grocery

348-350.... Cost Less Store Two, convenience store

352..... RAMS 12 Degrees, micropub

354-356.... Bengal Brasserie, Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant and take-away

358..... Glamourize Events, function and venue decorator

360..... Oradent Dental Care, private dentist

362..... Kebab Centre, take-away

366..... Chatham Memorial Synagogue

### At Hospital Lane

Thorndike Dental Care, dentist and implant practice

378..... The Dead Pigeon, sports bar with food

### 388-390.... The Space:

Naked Products, plastic free, eco-friendly, zero waste cosmetic and homecare products, Retrosexual, pre-loved clothing ; The Space, community art gallery

392..... Medway Tattoo and Piercing Studio

### At Gundulph Road

St. Bartholomew's Chapel, Granite Gym, martial arts

